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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A method for generating a DICOM compatible file which comprises medical information including quantitative one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values and image data, said method comprising the steps of:

performing an image acquisition of at least a portion of a patient to be examined;

generating image data based on the performed acquisition;

~~generating quantitative data~~ one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values based on the performed acquisition; and

constructing a composite file, wherein the image data is provided in an image data field of the composite file and the ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of bone mineral density (BMD) values and quantitative morphometry values is provided in a field one or more fields of the composite file other than the image data field.

2. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the acquisition is performed and the image data generated

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using a bone densitometer.

3. (canceled)

4. (original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the image data comprises an image of a patient's anatomy which was acquired.

5. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~quantitative data~~ composite file additionally comprises quantitative report data.

6. (original) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the quantitative report data comprises BMD data, T scores and Z scores.

7. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein the quantitative report data provided in an image comments field and is in a form of at least one of HTML, XML and Java Script files.

8. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the quantitative report data in the image comments field contains analysis results in computer readable form.

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9. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form in JavaScript.

10. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is HTML.

11. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

communicating the DICOM compatible file across a network;
receiving the DICOM compatible file at a DICOM compliant station;

extracting the ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of BMD values and quantitative morphometry values from the field of the DICOM compatible file other than the image data field; and
generating a report using the extracted ~~quantitative data~~ one or more of BMD values and quantitative morphometry values.

12. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the extracting step is performed using a software control.

13. (currently amended) A method as recited in claim [[1]] 5, wherein the quantitative report data includes raw

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data used to generate a report.

14. (original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the other field of the DICOM file is an Image Comments field.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein data in the Image Comments Field contains parameters which control a process of report generation allowing for customization of a report.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the computer readable form is XML.

18. (previously presented) A method of generating a DICOM file including embedded quantitative data, said method comprising:

generating a report image file from quantitative data;
embedding the report image file as an image file portion of the DICOM file; and
embedding the quantitative data, used to create the report image file, in a portion of the DICOM file other than the image file portion.

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19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the report image file comprises a bitmap image file.

20. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises raw data.

21. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data used to create the report image file comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

22. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quantitative data is embedded in an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.

23. (previously presented) A computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for creating a DICOM compliant file, said code comprising:

code for creating a report, including quantitative data, from acquisition data generated by at least one of an image capture device and another form of data entry;

code for creating a bitmap image file representing the created report;

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code for embedding the bitmap image file in an image field of a DICOM compliant file; and

code for embedding the quantitative data in a field of the DICOM compliant file other than the image field.

24. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises raw data used to create the report.

25. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the quantitative data comprises bone mineral density (BMD) data.

26. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other form of data entry includes manual entry.

27. (original) A computer executable software code as recited in claim 23, wherein the other field comprises an Image Comments field of the DICOM file.